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Date: December 4, 2001

Docket No.: 1131-0459P

BOX PATENT APPLICATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b), is a Continuation application of PCT International Application No. PCT/JP00/03612 filed on June 2, 2000. The present application is filed on behalf of the inventor(s) according to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.41(c).

Inventors: NAKANISHI, Yukio; OTA, Akinori; KAN, Katsuhiko;
SHIMONO, Naohiko; KAWAI, Kiyotaka;
MIYAKOSHI, Yoshisato; NARITA, Hiroaki;
IIJIMA, Toshiki; HAGIWARA, Kouichi

For: SHEET TOBACCO, AND PROCESS AND SYSTEM FOR MANUFACTURING
THE SAME

Enclosed are:

- ☒ A specification consisting of Twenty-three (23) pages
- ☒ Eleven (11) sheet(s) of formal drawings
- ☐ An assignment of the invention
- ☐ Certified copy of Priority Document(s)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement w/PTO-1449 and reference(s)

- ☒ Executed Declaration in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.64 will follow
- ☐ Applicant claims small entity status under 37 C.F.R. § 1.27.
- ☒ Information Sheet
- ☒ Preliminary Amendment
- ☒ Priority of PCT International Application No. PCT/JP00/03612 filed on June 2, 2000 is claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 120.
- ☒ Amend the specification by inserting before the first line thereof the following:

--This application is a Continuation of copending PCT International Application No. PCT/JP00/03612 filed on June 2, 2000, which was published in English and which designated the United States and on which priority is claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 120, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.--

- ☒ Priority of Application No. 11-157934 filed in Japan on June 4, 1999 is claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 119.
- ☐ Other:

The filing fee has been calculated as shown below:

			LARGE ENTITY	SMALL ENTITY
BASIC FEE			\$740.00	\$370.00
	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE FEE	RATE FEE
TOTAL CLAIMS	21- 20 =	1	X 18 = 18.00	x 9 = \$0.00
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS	3- 3 =	0	x 84 = \$0.00	x 42 = \$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS PRESENTED			+ \$280.00	+ \$140.00
TOTAL			\$758.00	\$0.00

- ☒ A check in the amount of \$758.00 to cover the filing fee and recording fee (if applicable) is enclosed.

☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2448 in the amount of \$0.00. A triplicate copy of this transmittal form is enclosed.

☒ Please send correspondence to:

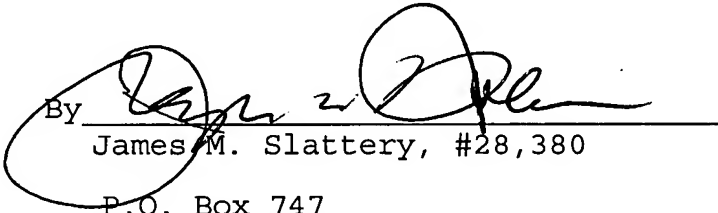
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP or Customer No. 2292
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By


James M. Slattery, #28,380

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1000159-120401

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

I N F O R M A T I O N S H E E T

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Application No.:

Filed: December 4, 2001

For: SHEET TOBACCO, AND PROCESS AND SYSTEM FOR MANUFACTURING THE
 SAME

Priority Claimed Under 35 U.S.C. 119 and/or 120:

COUNTRY	DATE	NUMBER
JAPAN	06/04/99	11-157934
PCT	06/02/00	PCT/JP00/03612

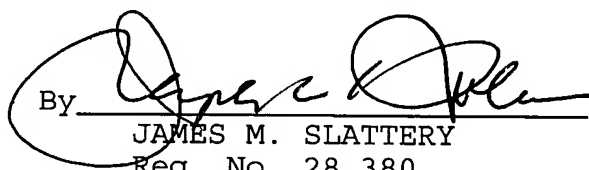
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The above information is submitted to advise the USPTO of all relevant facts in connection with the present application. A timely executed Declaration in accordance with 37 CFR 1.64 will follow.

Respectfully submitted,

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